



Assessment Notes...

From the Standards and Assessment Division

June 30, 2003

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

Distribution of County, District, and School Reports

Educational Testing Service (ETS), the STAR contractor, expects to begin shipping 2003 CST and CAT/6 reports to county and district offices during the week of July 14. County and district STAR coordinators are reminded that the STAR Performance Reports must be distributed to parents/guardians within 20-working days of when they are received.

The Performance Reports are four-page reports. Pages one and two include each student's CST and CAT/6 scores. Pages 3 and 4 are generic and provide an overview of the state's academic content standards for English-language arts, mathematics, science, and history-social science. STAR coordinators need to ensure that parents/guardians are sent both sheets (all four pages) of the report.

If student/parent addresses were included in the pre-ID file, the report pages should be collated, folded in thirds, and inserted into a #10 envelope with a right-hand window.

2003 District Student Data File Layout

The 2003 District Student data file layout and a Load Check data file are posted at <www.startest.org>. The Load Check file includes seven (7) student records that district STAR coordinators/programmers can use before receiving the 2003 CST and CAT/6 electronic file to verify that their programs are reading the correct data fields.

Internet Reports to be Posted August 15

As required by state law, the 2003 STAR results are scheduled for Internet posting on August 15, 2003. During early August, district STAR coordinators will receive information for accessing the Web site to verify district and school data before the public opening of the site. Coordinators will have access to the site on August 13 and 14.

As in previous years, STAR results on the Internet will be by grade level and content area. No individual student or teacher/class results will be posted. No scores will be posted for any grade level or subgroup that has 10 or fewer students.

This year's Web site will include the CST, CAPA, and CAT/6 results with a link to the SABE/2 results. All subgroup reporting—including ethnicity, program participation, and parent education—will be accessible from a single site.

2003 Mismatch Reports to be Included This Year

This year the district and county shipments will include mismatch STAR reports if applicable. These reports will include:

- Grade 2 and 3 students with CST but no CAT/6 scores or CAT/6 but no CST scores
- Grade 4 or 7 CST multiple-choice tests with not writing tests or writing tests with no multiple-choice tests

continued on back...

This publication is produced by:
Standards and Assessment Division
California Department of Education
Phil Spears, Division Director

...continued from front

The reports may be used to document students who entered or left a school during testing and have incomplete results and to identify tests that are unmatched due to document coding discrepancies. These reports are for district and school use.

Hand-Scoring/Re-Scoring Requests from Parents/Guardians

Beginning this year, ETS is providing the option to have CST and CAT/6 multiple-choice tests hand scored and/or grade 4 and 7 CST writing tests re-scored, if parents/guardians believe that the tests were scored incorrectly. Watch <www.startest.org> for details. Parents/guardians are be required to meet with a school administrator to review the test results. To request to have a test hand-scored or re-scored, a school administrator must complete and certify a request form for the parent/guardian to submit to ETS, with a check or money order to cover scoring costs. If the re-scoring results in the student's score being changed, the money will be refunded.

In order to have a grade 4 or 7 writing test re-scored, a student must have an ELA CST performance level of Basic and re-scoring the writing test must have the potential to move the student's score to Proficient.

Comparing 2002 and 2003 Stanford 9 and CAT/6 Results

When 2003 STAR results are received, no direct comparisons should be made between the 2002 Stanford 9 and the 2003 CAT/6 results. It is inappropriate to compare results from the two test batteries, because the CAT/6 was developed by a different publisher more than six years later than the Stanford 9. The CAT/6 has a different structure, content emphasis, and difficulty level than the Stanford 9. Point-by-point linking tables that may be used to make comparisons between the two tests will be available during August.

Coordinators are reminded that the only comparisons that should be made for the California Standards Tests (CSTs) across the years are those within the same grade and content area (e.g., English-language arts in grade 2 to English-language arts in grade 2). Since the tests have not been vertically equated, it is inappropriate to compare results for cohorts of students moving from one grade to the next.

Submitting 2003 STAR Reports

District and county STAR coordinators are reminded that the following four reports must be submitted to the CDE:

- **Certification of Compliance—CST and CAT/6**
Due within 5 working days of completing testing
- **Certification of Compliance—SABE/2**
Due within 5 working days of completing testing
- **Notification of Receipt of CST and CAT/6 Reports**
Due within 5 working days of receiving reports
- **Notification of Receipt of SABE/2 Reports**
Due within 5 working days of receiving reports

NOTE: District Superintendents will receive the 2003 apportionment forms to certify and return to the CDE in late September. The school/site data collection forms are for district and school use only and are not to be submitted to the CDE. These forms are optional to provide the superintendent information needed to certify the Apportionment Report when received. The Apportionment letter, report forms, and directions are available at <www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star> on the Internet.

California Science Standards Tests

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted a policy to integrate results of the California Standards Tests (CSTs) into the 2003 Base Academic Performance Index (API). The total weight for science in the API calculations for schools with grades 9 through 11 will be 8 percent: 3 percent for the CAT/6 science tests and 5 percent for the CSTs. Students who do not take a science standards test will receive a score of 200 for purposes of calculating school and district APIs. In addition, results of the science core knowledge tests required for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) will be incorporated into API calculations when the tests are available. These tests are expected to be in place in 2007.

For More Information...

For more information about STAR contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 445-8765 (phone), at (916) 319-0969 (fax), at <STAR@cde.ca.gov> (e-mail), or at <<http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/>> (Internet).